



**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Eastern States
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PRESS RELEASE

For Release: Immediately

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Wild Horses... not only out West! How about online?

Did you ever wonder about our vast land out West? And what about the animals that might inhabit that land? Look no further than your own computer for the wonderful opportunity to view a variety of healthy, adoptable wild horses, "Living Legends," gathered recently from public rangelands from the West. Beginning September 10, 1999, you can view these wild horses at your own computer, and better yet, you can adopt your own wild horse online by visiting the Web site at:

<http://www.adoptahorse.blm.gov>

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will hold its fifth on-line Internet adoption, with 25 wild horses—10 yearlings, 5 mares, 7 studs, and 3 geldings--gathered from western rangelands to maintain a balance among wild horse herds and native wildlife and domestic animals. These animals will be adopted to qualified people who will give them good homes.

Applications will be accepted from September 15-30, 1999, with on-line bidding to start at noon September 22, 1999, and ending at noon October 6, 1999. After you view current photos of the animals on the Internet and comply with the requirements for care and feeding of a wild horse, you can complete the on-line adoption application. Your application will be reviewed by a Wild Horse and Burro Specialist. Applicants who were previously approved to participate in the last adoption need not re-apply but must call (800) 370-3936.

Once you are approved, you will be required to pay a \$50 deposit to obtain a User ID, then your password will be activated. Now the excitement begins. You will be able to bid on any of the horses offered for adoption through the Internet. Your deposit will be returned if you are not a successful high bidder.

All bids start at \$125. The high bid amount and User ID will be displayed, in real time, on the

Internet. While you can enter a bid on any of the animals, you may have only have four untitled animals on your property. High bidders will be notified in early October 1999. If you are the highest bidder on more animals than you are approved for, you will be required to limit your choices. Even if you are not the highest bidder, you may still have a chance of obtaining an animal should a high bidder pass after the closing of the bidding process.

When you are called to confirm your high bid, your pick-up time will be confirmed. Pickups will be scheduled for October 15-16, 1999, at the BLM's Adoption Center in Cross Plains, Tennessee.

"The BLM has found homes for 63 animals through this innovative Internet adoption program. We want our successful bidders to be happy with their new addition to their families, and if they are not totally satisfied with their selection, they're not obligated to take them home," said BLM's Eastern States Director Hord Tipton.

Adopters are required to provide a covered shelter of at least 12 feet x 12 feet, a minimum of 20 feet x 20 feet corral, and sturdy fencing, 5 feet high for yearlings and 6 feet high for horses, 2 years and older. In order to transport the animals from the adoption, adopters must have a solidly-constructed horse trailer with a covered top and side-swing back gates, along with halters and lead ropes. BLM crews sort, halter and load the animals onto the adopters' trailers. Each animals has been checked by a veterinarian, and has received vaccinations for common horse maladies.

For further information, call toll free 1-800-376-6009.